

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01

EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 IO-14 DRC-01 /178 W

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R 281617Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6519

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY. BOTH TONE AND CONTENT OF COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 25-27 VISIT HERE BY IRAQ'S SADDAM HUSSEIN SUGGEST THAT VISIT DID LITTLE TO BRING SOVIETS AND IRAQIS CLOSER TOGETHER ON ME SETTLEMENT OR OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. HUSSEIN VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE FOLLOWED PATTERN SIMILAR TO THAT OF HIS VISIT HERE IN MARCH OF LAST YEAR. HE WAS RECEIVED BY BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN AND HELD TALKS WITH PONOMAREV, GROMYKO AND SKACHKOV,
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CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC TIES.

3. ON THE MIDDLE EAST THE COMMUNIQUE KEEPS TO GENERALITIES. PARTIES AGREED THAT A ME SETTLEMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB-OCCUPIED LANDS AND WITHOUT SECURING THE "NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS. PARTIES ALSO CONDEMNED EFFORTS OF "IMPERIALIST CIRCLES AND REACTIONARY FORCES" TO REIMPOSE THEIR DOMINATION OVER THE AREA. THEY CONSIDERED CONSOLIDATION OF THE ARAB STATES ON AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST BASIS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THEIR COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO BE MOST IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE FOR THE ARAB STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAELI AGGRESSION.

4. ON BILATERAL AFFAIRS THE PARTIES EMPHASIZED THEIR INTENT TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FIELDS IN ACCORD WITH THE SOVIET-IRAQI TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. THEY ALSO AGREED TO CONTINUE, STRENGTHEN, AND DEEPEN THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE CPSU AND BAATH PARTY.

5. COMMENT: ABSENCE OF ANY BUILD-UP FOR OR EXTENSIVE REPORTING OF HUSSEIN'S VISIT CONTRASTS WITH MAJOR COVERAGE GIVEN HIS VISIT HERE LAST YEAR AND SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS PROBABLY EXPECTED LITTLE FROM THIS VISIT. FAILURE OF COMMUNIQUE TO REFER EVEN INDIRECTLY TO SUCH MAJOR ME DEVELOPMENTS AS CALLING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, OR ACHIEVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN-ISARELI DISENGAGEMENT (OBLIGATORY REFERENCES IN OTHER RECENT SOVIET-ARAB COMMUNIQUE), SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS PROBABLY FOUND THEIR EXPECTATIONS JUSTIFIED AND WERE UNABLE TO MOVE IRAQIS ANY CLOSER TO SOVIET POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. COMMUNIQUE SHEDS NO LIGHT ON ALLEGED SOVIET-IRAQI DIFFERENCES OVER OIL PRICES, WHICH WE ASSUME WERE MAJOR ASPECT OF TALKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TREATY VIOLATION, PETROLEUM, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COMMUNIQUE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW02924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974023/aaaaaceq.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADDAM HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IZ, XF, (HUSSEIN, SADDAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005